

### Amendment to Claims

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this Application.

#### Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of dynamic performance determination of network connected output devices, ~~wherein each output device has a set of characteristics;~~ comprising:

- entering a multi-copy print job at a first network output device;
- ~~querying, by the first network output device,~~ other output devices on the network to determine each other output device's characteristics and pending print jobs to determine if a specific other output device is capable of performing a portion of the entered multi-copy print job;
- transmitting a portion of the multi-copy print job from the first network output device to each capable other output device which is selected to print a portion of the multi-copy print job;
- reporting the completion of a single copy of the entered multi-copy print job by each other output device to the first network output device; and
- ~~determining, from said reporting completion, by the first network output device,~~ ~~the~~ a number of copies of the entered multi-copy print job to be printed by the first network output device and each other selected output device.

Claim 2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~determining includes determining the number of copies of the entered print job to be printed by the first network output device and each other output device by~~ step further comprises optimizing

the number of copies to be printed by all selected output devices after all of the other selected output devices have reported to the first network output device.

Claim 3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein said determining ~~includes determining the number of copies of the entered print job to be printed by the first network output device and each other output device by~~ step further comprises optimizing the number of copies to be printed by all selected output devices after a predetermined amount of time has passed from said transmitting, and wherein the number of copies to be printed is allocated only among the first network output device and such other selected output devices which have reported the completion of printing the first copy of the entered multi-copy print job.

Claim 4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the number of copies to be printed exceeds a predetermined number, and wherein the first network output device initiates printing on itself and each of the other selected output devices as other selected output devices report completion of their first copy of the entered multi-copy print job, and wherein the first network output device makes a final determination of the number of copies which each selected output device is to print after all of the other selected output devices have reported.

Claim 5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein said entering ~~includes~~ step further comprises loading a multi-copy print job into the first network output device

and storing the multi-copy print job in the first network output device.

Claim 6. CANCELLED

Claim 7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of dynamic performance determination of network connected output devices, ~~wherein each output device has a set of characteristics;~~ comprising:

entering a multi-copy print job at a first network output device, including loading a multi-copy print job into the first network output device and storing the multi-copy print job in the first network output device;

~~querying, by first network output device,~~ other output devices on the network to determine each other output device's characteristics and pending print jobs to determine if a specific other output device is capable of performing a portion of the entered multi-copy print job;

transmitting a portion of the multi-copy print job from the first network output device to each capable other output device which is selected to print a portion of the multi-copy print job;

reporting the completion of a single copy of the entered multi-copy print job by each other selected output device to the first network output device; and

determining, from said reporting completion, by the first network output device, a number of copies of the entered multi-copy print job to be printed by the first network output device and each other selected output device.

Claim 8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7 wherein said determining ~~includes determining the number of copies of the entered print job to be printed by the first network output device and each other output device by~~ step further comprises optimizing the number of copies to be printed by all selected output devices after all of the other selected output devices have reported to the first network output device.

Claim 9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7 wherein said determining ~~includes determining the number of copies of the entered print job to be printed by the first network output device and each other output device by~~ step further comprises optimizing the number of copies to be printed by all selected output devices after a predetermined amount of time has passed from said transmitting, and wherein the number of copies to be printed is allocated only among the first network output device and such other selected output devices which have reported the completion of printing the first copy of the entered multi-copy print job.

Claim 10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7 wherein the number of copies to be printed exceeds a predetermined number, and wherein the first network output device initiates printing on itself and each of the other selected output devices as other selected output devices report completion of their first copy of the entered print job, and wherein the first network output device makes a final determination of the number of copies which each selected output device is to print after all of the other selected output devices have reported.

Claim 11. (NEW) The method of claim 7 wherein the output devices are taken from the group of output devices consisting of a copier, a printer and a multi-function peripheral.

Claim 12. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the output devices are taken from the group of output devices consisting of a copier, a printer and a multi-function peripheral.